

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A combustion apparatus comprising:

a burner burning a fuel within a furnace in a theoretical air ratio or less;

an air port arranged downstream of the burner and injecting additional

combustion air into the furnace; ~~and~~

an inhibiting gas supply means for supplying a nitrogen oxide generation inhibiting gas inhibiting a nitrogen oxide from being generated provided in a mixing region formed by both of a combustion gas generated by burning the fuel by means of said burner and a combustion air injected from said air port or near the mixing region; and,

a blower for circulating combustion exhaust gas from an outlet of the furnace to an inlet of the inhibiting gas supply means.

wherein an inner side of said air port is separated into a flow path injecting said combustion air, and a flow path injecting said nitrogen oxide generation inhibiting gas, and wherein said nitrogen oxide generation inhibiting gas is constituted by at least one gas selected from a group ~~comprising a,~~ consisting of the combustion exhaust gas, and a mixed gas of the combustion exhaust gas ~~the and~~ air, ~~and low temperature air .~~

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) A combustion apparatus as claimed in ~~claim-262,~~ wherein said nitrogen oxide generation inhibiting gas is injected into the furnace from an inhibiting gas injection port provided on an outer peripheral portion side of an air injection port of said air port.

5. (Previously Presented) A combustion apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said inhibiting gas injection port is formed in an annular shape so as to surround the air injection port of said air port.

6. (Previously Presented) A combustion apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein a plurality of said inhibiting gas injecting ports are arranged in a peripheral direction so as to surround the air injection port of said air port.

7. (Previously Presented) A combustion apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said inhibiting gas injection port is formed approximately in a circular arc shape so as to surround a part of the air injection port of said air port.

8. (Previously Presented) A combustion apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein a plurality of said inhibiting gas injection ports are concentrically arranged in a part of an outer peripheral portion of the air injection port of said air port.

9. (Previously Presented) A combustion apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said inhibiting gas injection port is arranged in the burner side of the air injection port of said air port.

10. (Currently Amended) A combustion apparatus as claimed in claim ~~26~~
2, further comprising a system for supplying a part of exhaust gas recirculation within said furnace as the nitrogen oxide generation inhibiting gas in a branched state.

11. (Previously Presented) A combustion apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein a blower exclusive for the nitrogen oxide generation inhibiting gas is placed in said system for supplying a part of exhaust gas recirculation.

12. (Previously Presented) A combustion apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said nitrogen oxide generation inhibiting gas is constituted by an exhaust gas after a temperature thereof is lowered by a heat exchanger.

13. (Currently Amended) A combustion apparatus as claimed in claim ~~26~~
2, wherein a plurality of air ports are placed along a width direction of said furnace, and each of the air ports is provided with said inhibiting gas supply means and a flow rate regulating means for regulating a flow rate of the nitrogen oxide generation inhibiting

gas.

14. (Currently Amended) A combustion apparatus as claimed in claim ~~26~~
2, wherein a plurality of air ports are placed along a width direction of said furnace, each
of the air ports is provided with said inhibiting gas supply means, and a flow rate
regulator for providing ~~an increased~~ more flow of the nitrogen oxide generator inhibiting
gas to an air port close to the furnace center portion than to the air port close to the
furnace side wall of the plurality of air ports.

15. (Previously Presented) A combustion apparatus as claimed in claim
13, wherein a total supply flow rate of the nitrogen oxide generation inhibiting gas
supplied to said plurality of air ports is variable in correspondence to a load of said
combustion apparatus.

16. (Previously Presented) A combustion apparatus as claimed in claim
13, wherein a total supply flow rate of the nitrogen oxide generation inhibiting gas
supplied to said plurality of air ports is variable in correspondence to a nitrogen oxide
discharging concentration of said combustion apparatus.

17-26. (Canceled).